BEFORE THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT COMMITTEE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:)		•
ALEXIS C. NIXON, P.A.))	Case No:	1E-2001-125966
Physician Assistant License No. PA-14878)		
Respond) lent.)		
)		

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby accepted and adopted as the Decision and Order by the Physician Assistant Committee, Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on May 15, 2003

ORDERED April 15, 2003

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT COMMITTEE

Adbert Sachs, P.A., Chairperson

RECEIVED PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

1 BILL LOCKYER, Attorney General MAR 2 6 2003 of the State of California 2 JENNEVEE H. DE GUZMAN, State Bar No. 197817 COMMITTEE Deputy Attorney General **LICENSING** 3 California Department of Justice 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 4 Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 897-8436 5 Facsimile: (213) 897-9395 6 Attorneys for Complainant 7 BEFORE THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT COMMITTEE 8 MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS** 9 STATE OF CALIFORNIA 10 In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No. 1E-2001-125966 11 ALEXIS CONSTANTINE NIXON OAH No. 12 1103 South Hudson Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90019 STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND 13 DISCIPLINARY ORDER Physician Assistant License No. PA-14878 14 Respondent. 15 16 17 In the interest of a prompt and speedy settlement of this matter, consistent with 18 the public interest and the responsibility of the Physician Assistant Committee, Medical Board of 19 California of the Department of Consumer Affairs, the parties hereby agree to the following 20 Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order which will be submitted to the Committee for 21 approval and adoption as the final disposition of the Accusation. 22 **PARTIES** 23 1. Richard L. Wallinder, Jr. (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of the 24 Physician Assistant Committee. He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is 25 represented in this matter by Bill Lockyer, Attorney General of the State of California, by 26 Jennevee H. de Guzman, Deputy Attorney General. 27 2. Respondent Alexis Constantine Nixon (Respondent) is represented in this

proceeding by attorney Tracy Green, whose address is Law Offices of Richard A. Moss, 255

South Marengo Avenue, Pasadena, California 91101-2719.

1E-2001-125966 and will expire on March 31, 2003, unless renewed.

3. On or about March 4, 1999, the Physician Assistant Committee issued Physician Assistant License No. PA-14878 to Alexis Constantine Nixon. The License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No.

JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. 1E-2001-125966 was filed before the Physician Assistant Committee (Committee) for the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on September 18, 2002. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 1E-2001-125966 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 1E-2001-125966. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel at his own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

8. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in

Accusation No. 1E-2001-125966.

9. Respondent agrees that his Physician Assistant License is subject to discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Committee's imposition of discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

CIRCUMSTANCES IN MITIGATION

10. Respondent Alexis Constantine Nixon has never been the subject of any disciplinary action. He is admitting responsibility at an early stage in the proceedings.

CONTINGENCY

- Committee. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Physician Assistant Committee may communicate directly with the Committee regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Committee considers and acts upon it. If the Committee fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Committee shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 12. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 13. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Committee may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician Assistant License No. PA-14878 issued to Respondent Alexis Constantine Nixon is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for five (5) years on the following terms and conditions.

	1.	ACTUAL SUSPENSION	As part of probation, respondent is suspended
from the p	ractice of r	nedicine as a physician assis	stant for thirty (30) days, beginning the effective
date of this	decision.		

- CONTROLLED DRUGS TOTAL RESTRICTIONS Respondent shall not administer, order, or prescribe for any patient any controlled substances as defined in the California Uniform Controlled Substances Act.
- 3. <u>DRUGS ABSTAIN FROM USE / EXEMPTION FOR PERSONAL</u>

 <u>USE</u> Respondent shall abstain completely from the personal use or possession of controlled substances as defined in the California Uniform Controlled Substances Act, and dangerous drugs as defined by Section 4211 of the Business and Professions Code, or any drugs requiring a prescription.

Orders forbidding respondent from personal use or possession of controlled substances or dangerous drugs do not apply to medications lawfully prescribed to respondent for a bona fide illness or condition by another practitioner.

- 4. <u>BIOLOGICAL FLUID TESTING</u> Respondent shall immediately submit to biological fluid testing upon the request of the Physician Assistant Examining Committee or its designee. The cost of biological fluid testing shall be borne by respondent.
- of the effective date of this decision, respondent shall submit to the Physician Assistant

 Examining Committee or its designee for its prior approval a community service program in which respondent shall provide free medical services on a regular basis to a community or charitable facility or agency for at least one hundred (100) hours over the course of probation.
- 6. <u>ETHICS COURSE</u> Within three (3) months of the effective date of this decision, respondent shall submit to the committee or its designee for its prior approval a course in ethics, which respondent shall successfully complete during the first year of probation. Respondent shall participate in an ethics course at his own expense.
- 7. NOTIFICATION OF EMPLOYER AND SUPERVISING PHYSICIAN
 Respondent shall notify his current and any subsequent employer and supervising physician(s) of

his discipline and provide a copy of the Stipulation, Decision, and Order to each such employer and supervising physician(s) during his period of probation, at the onset of that employment. Respondent shall inform the Physician Assistant Examining Committee, or its agent, in writing and under penalty of perjury, within thirty (30) days, verifying that the employer and supervising physician(s) have been informed of this Stipulation and Order.

- 8. <u>OBEY ALL LAWS</u> Respondent shall obey all federal, state, and local laws, and all rules governing the practice of medicine as a physician assistant in California, and remain in full compliance with any court ordered criminal probation, payments, and other orders.
- 9. QUARTERLY REPORTS Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the committee or its designee, stating whether there has been compliance with all the conditions of probation.
- 10. <u>SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM</u> Respondent shall comply with the committee's probation surveillance program.
- 11. <u>INTERVIEW WITH MEDICAL CONSULTANT</u> Respondent shall appear in person for interviews with the committee's medical or expert physician assistant consultant upon request at various intervals and with reasonable notice.
- 12. TOLLING FOR OUT-OF -STATE PRACTICE OR RESIDENCE The period of probation shall not run during the time respondent is residing or practicing outside the jurisdiction of California. If, during probation, respondent moves out of the jurisdiction of California to reside or practice elsewhere, including federal facilities, respondent is required to immediately notify the committee in writing of the date of departure and the date of return, if any.
- 13. <u>INITIAL PROBATION INTERVIEW</u> Respondent shall appear in person for an initial interview with a designee of the Physician Assistant Examining Committee within ninety (90) days of the final decision. Respondent shall subject himself to an initial interview at a time and place determined by the committee or its designee.
- 14. <u>UNANNOUNCED CLINICAL SITE VISIT</u> At least once per calendar year, or more frequently as determined by the committee or its designee, unannounced clinical

site visits shall be made by the committee or its designee to ensure that respondent is complying with all terms and conditions of probation.

- 15. <u>COMPLETION OF PROBATION</u> Upon successful completion of probation as determined by the committee's executive officer, respondent's license will be fully restored.
- 16. <u>VIOLATION OF PROBATION</u> If respondent violates probation in any respect, the committee, after giving respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an accusation or petition to revoke probation is filed against respondent during probation, the committee shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.
- 17. COST RECOVERY The respondent is hereby ordered to reimburse the Physician Assistant Examining Committee the amount of \$5,775.41 for its investigative and prosecution costs. That sum shall be paid in full directly to the Board, in equal monthly payments, within ninety (90) days of the termination of probation (\$101.32/month for 57 months). Should respondent seek and gain early termination of probation, the remaining balance of the investigative and prosecution costs shall be due within ninety (90) days from the effective date of the decision granting early termination of probation. Failure to reimburse the committee's costs for its investigation and prosecution shall constitute a violation of the probation order. The filing of bankruptcy by the respondent shall not relieve the respondent of his responsibility to reimburse the committee for its costs.
- 18. <u>VOLUNTARY LICENSE SURRENDER</u> Following the effective date of this probation, if respondent ceases practicing due to retirement, health reasons, or is otherwise unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of probation, respondent may voluntarily tender his license to the committee. The committee reserves the right to evaluate the respondent's request and to exercise its discretion whether to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the tendered license, respondent will no longer be subject to the terms and conditions of probation.

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MOSS LAW OFFICES

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ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Scatlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney. Tracy Green. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician Assistant License. I offer into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Physician Assistant Committee, Medical Board of California.

DATED: 3-18-03

ANTINE NIXON-

Respondent

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Alexis Constantine Nixon the terms and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I approve its form and content.

DATED:

Attorney for Respondent

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ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Physician Assistant Committee, Medical Board of California of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

DATED: 3/20/03

BILL LOCKYER, Attorney General of the State of California

JENNEVEE H. DE GUZMAN
Deputy Attorney General

Attorneys for Complainant

DOJ Docket Number: 03578160-LA2002AD1806

Exhibit A
Accusation No. 1E-2001-125966

FILED

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

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BILL LOCKYER, Attorney General of the State of California
PAUL C. AMENT, State Bar No. 60427
Deputy Attorney General
For JENNEVEE H. DE GUZMAN
Deputy Attorney General
California Department of Justice
300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702
Los Angeles, CA 90013
Telephone: (213) 897-8436
Facsimile: (213) 897-9395

Attorneys for Complainant

BEFORE THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT COMMITTEE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 1E-2001-125966

13 ALEXIS CONSTANTINE NIXON 1103 South Hudson Avenue 14 Los Angeles, CA 90019

ACCUSATION

Physician Assistant License No. PA-14878

Respondent.

Complainant alleges:

and will expire on March 31, 2003, unless renewed.

PARTIES

1. Richard L. Wallinder, Jr. (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Physician Assistant Committee, Department of Consumer Affairs.

2. On March 4, 1999, the Physician Assistant Committee issued Physician Assistant License Number PA-14878 to Alexis Constantine Nixon (Respondent). The Physician Assistant License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein

JURISDICTION

- 3. This Accusation is brought before the Physician Assistant Committee, Medical Board of California (Committee), under the authority of the following sections of the Business and Professions Code (Code).
 - 4. Section 3527, subdivision (a), of the Code provides:
 - (a) The committee may order the denial of an application for, or the issuance subject to terms and conditions of, or the suspension or revocation of, or the imposition of probationary conditions upon a physician assistant license after a hearing as required in Section 3528 for unprofessional conduct which includes, but is not limited to, a violation of this chapter, a violation of the Medical Practice Act, or a violation of the regulations adopted by the committee or the board.
- 5. Section 125.3 of the Code states, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.
 - 6. Section 3502, subdivision (a), of the Code provides:
 - (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a physician assistant may perform those medical services as set forth by the regulations of the board when the services are rendered under the supervision of a licensed physician and surgeon or of physicians and surgeons approved by the board, except as provided in Section 3502.5.
 - 7. Section 3502.1 of the Code states:
 - (a) In addition to the services authorized in the regulations adopted by the board, and except as prohibited by Section 3502, while under the supervision of a licensed physician and surgeon or physicians and surgeons authorized by law to supervise a physician assistant, a physician assistant may administer or provide medication to a patient, or transmit orally, or in writing on a patient's record or in a drug order, an order to a person who may lawfully furnish the medication or medical device pursuant to subdivisions (c) and (d).

- (1) A supervising physician and surgeon who delegates authority to issue a drug order to a physician assistant may limit this authority by specifying the manner in which the physician assistant may issue delegated prescriptions.
- (2) Each supervising physician and surgeon who delegates the authority to issue a drug order to a physician assistant shall first prepare or adopt a written, practice specific, formulary and protocols that specify all criteria for the use of a particular drug or device, and any contraindications for the selection. The drugs listed shall constitute the formulary and shall include only drugs that are appropriate for use in the type of practice engaged in by the supervising physician and surgeon. When issuing a drug order, the physician assistant is acting on behalf of and as an agent for a supervising physician and surgeon.
- (b) "Drug order" for purposes of this section means an order for medication which is dispensed to or for a patient, issued and signed by a physician assistant acting as an individual practitioner within the meaning of Section 1306.02 of Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, (1) a drug order issued pursuant to this section shall be treated in the same manner as a prescription or order of the supervising physician, (2) all references to "prescription" in this code and the Health and Safety Code shall include drug orders issued by physician assistants pursuant to authority granted by their supervising physicians, and (3) the signature of a physician assistant on a drug order shall be deemed to be the signature of a prescriber for purposes of this code and the Health and Safety Code.
- (c) A drug order for any patient cared for by the physician assistant that is issued by the physician assistant shall either be based on the protocols described in subdivision (a) or shall be approved by the supervising physician before it is filled or carried out.
- (1) A physician assistant shall not administer or provide a drug or issue a drug order for a drug other than for a drug listed in the formulary without advance approval from a supervising physician and surgeon for the particular patient. At the direction and under the supervision of a physician and surgeon, a physician assistant may hand to a

patient of the supervising physician and surgeon a properly labeled prescription drug prepackaged by a physician and surgeon, manufacturer as defined in the Pharmacy Law, or a pharmacist.

- (2) A physician assistant may not administer, provide or issue a drug order for Schedule II through Schedule V controlled substances without advance approval by a supervising physician and surgeon for the particular patient.
- (3) Any drug order issued by a physician assistant shall be subject to a reasonable quantitative limitation consistent with customary medical practice in the supervising physician and surgeon's practice.
- (d) A written drug order issued pursuant to subdivision (a), except a written drug order in a patient's medical record in a health facility or medical practice, shall contain the printed name, address, and phone number of the supervising physician and surgeon, the printed or stamped name and license number of the physician assistant, and the signature of the physician assistant. Further, a written drug order for a controlled substance, except a written drug order in a patient's medical record in a health facility or a medical practice, shall include the federal controlled substances registration number of the physician assistant. The requirements of this subdivision may be met through stamping or otherwise imprinting on the supervising physician and surgeon's prescription blank to show the name, license number, and if applicable, the federal controlled substances number of the physician assistant, and shall be signed by the physician assistant. When using a drug order, the physician assistant is acting on behalf of and as the agent of a supervising physician and surgeon.
- (e) The medical record of any patient cared for by a physician assistant for whom the supervising physician and surgeon's drug order has been issued or carried out shall be reviewed and countersigned and dated by a supervising physician and surgeon within seven days.
- (f) All physician assistants who are authorized by their supervising physicians to issue drug orders for controlled substances shall register with the United States Drug

Enforcement Administration (DEA).

8. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1399.521, states:

"In addition to the grounds set forth in section 3527, subd. (a), of the code the committee may deny, issue subject to terms and conditions, suspend, revoke or place on probation a physician assistant for the following causes:

- "(a) Any violation of the State Medical Practice Act which would constitute unprofessional conduct for a physician and surgeon.
- "(b) Using fraud or deception in passing an examination administered or approved by the committee.
- "(c) Practicing as a physician assistant under a physician or other person who has not received the approval of the board, or the Board of Osteopathic Examiners in the case of a supervising physician licensed by that board, to supervise a physician assistant.
- "(d) Practicing as a physician assistant under a physician whose approval to supervise a physician assistant has been suspended or revoked.
- "(e) Performing medical tasks which exceed the scope of practice of a physician assistant as prescribed in these regulations."
- 9. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1399.540, states in pertinent part:

"A physician assistant may only provide those medical services ...which are delegated in writing by a supervising physician who is responsible for the patients cared for by that physician assistant."

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Gross Negligence)

- 10. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under sections 2234(b) and 3527(a) of the Code in that he was grossly negligent in his care and treatment of two patients. The circumstances are as follows:
 - 11. On or about April 20, 2001, Respondent provided medical care and

- 12. On or about August 29, 2001, Respondent again provided medical care and treatment to R.P. On this occasion Respondent again evaluated R.P.'s knee pain.

 Respondent recommended that R.P. take Tylenol ES. Respondent again recommended that if there was no improvement, R.P. should be given Vicodin. This medical care and treatment occurred at Respondent's residence, and did not occur under the supervision of a licensed physician and surgeon.
- 13. On or about September 25, 2001, Respondent issued a drug order for R.P. The drug order was for Vicodin ES and was issued for "back pain." In issuing this drug order Respondent was not acting under the supervision of, pursuant to a delegation of authority from, or pursuant to an advance approval from, a licensed physician and surgeon.
- 14. Vicodin ES is a Schedule III controlled substance within the meaning of section 3502.1(c)(2) of the Code.
- treatment to Patient J.B. On that occasion J.B. complained of upper respiratory infection symptoms. Respondent evaluated J.B., and gave her a drug order for amoxicillin. This care and treatment of J.B. occurred at Respondent's residence, and did not occur under the supervision of a licensed physician and surgeon. Respondent's provision of the drug order for amoxicillin did not occur under the supervision of, or pursuant to a delegation of authority from, a licensed physician and surgeon.
 - 16. On or about September 25, 2001, Respondent issued a drug order for J.B.

^{1.} The names of the patients to which reference is made herein will be disclosed to Respondent upon a timely request for discovery.

The drug order was for Xanax, which is a Schedule IV controlled substance within the meaning of section 3502.1(c)(2) of the Code. In issuing this drug order, Respondent was not acting under the supervision of, pursuant to a delegation of authority from, or pursuant to an advance approval from, a licensed physician and surgeon.

- and treatment to J.B. at Respondent's residence. On this occasion J.B. again complained of upper respiratory infection symptoms, and Respondent again issued a drug order for amoxicillin for her. Respondent's care and treatment of J.B. on this occasion did not occur under the supervision of a licensed physician and surgeon. Respondent's provision of the drug order for amoxicillin on this occasion did not occur under the supervision of, or pursuant to a delegation of authority from, a licensed physician and surgeon.
- 18. From on or about March 12, 2001, until on or about March 28, 2002, Respondent maintained custody of the medical records of R.P and J.B. at his (Respondent's) residence.
- 19. Respondent's care and treatment of R.P. and J.B., including his issuance of drug orders for R.P. and J.B. and his maintenance of custody over the medical records of R.P. and J.B., as set forth in paragraphs 11 through 18 above, constituted an extreme departure from the standard of care in that Respondent was acting without the supervision of a licensed physician and surgeon, and was functioning autonomously.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Repeated Negligent Acts)

- 20. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under sections 2234(c) and 3527(a) of the Code in that he repeatedly committed negligent acts in his care and treatment of Patients R.P. and J.B. The circumstances are as follows.
- The allegations contained in paragraphs 11 through 18 above are realleged at this point.
 - 22. The acts of Respondent that are alleged to be negligent are as follows:

1	3502.1 of the Code in that on or about November 25, 2001, Respondent issued an unauthorized
2	drug order for amoxicillin. The circumstances are as follows.
3	26. The allegations contained in paragraph 17 above are re-alleged at this
4	point.
5	
6	FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE
7	(Issuance of Drug Order for Controlled Substance Without Advance Approval)
8	27. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under sections 3527(a) and
9	3502.1 of the Code in that on or about September 25, 2001, he issued a drug order for a Schedule
10	III controlled substance, to wit, Vicodin ES, without the advance approval of the patient's
11	physician and surgeon. The circumstances are as follows.
12	28. The allegations contained in paragraphs 13 and 14 above are re-alleged at
13	this point.
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15	SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE
16	(Issuance of Drug Order for Controlled Substance Without Advance Approval)
17	29. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under sections 3527(a) and
18	3502.1 of the Code in that on or about September 25, 2001, he issued a drug order for a Schedule
19	IV controlled substance, to wit, Xanax, without the advance approval of the patient's physician
20	and surgeon. The circumstances are as follows.
21	30. The allegations contained in paragraph 16 above are re-alleged at this
22	point.
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PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Physician Assistant Committee issue a decision:

- 1. Revoking or suspending Physician Assistant License Number PA-14878, issued to Alexis Constantine Nixon;
- 2. Ordering Alexis Constantine Nixon to pay the Physician Assistant
 Committee the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to
 Business and Professions Code section 125.3;
 - 3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: September 16, 2002

RICHARD L. WALLINDER JR

Executive Officer

Physician Assistant Committee
Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California Complainant